

SOCIETAL SELECTION

o'clock, and had to give up his reform.¹ In the height of the crinoline fashion Leech published in *Punch* a picture of two maiden ladies w^ho "think crinoline a preposterous and extravagant invention and appear at a party in a simple and elegant attire." The shocked horror of the bystanders is perfect, but the two ladies would to-day be quite in the fashion. Du Maurier published in *Punch* a skit in which a little girl asked her mother how Eve knew, the first time that she saw Cain as a baby, that he was not ugly. This is a very clever hit at the origin of conventions. There was when Cain was born no established convention that all babies are pretty.

194. Fashion in faiths and ideals. There are also fashions in trading, banking, political devices, traveling, inn keeping, book making, shows, amusements, flowers, fancywork, carriages, gardens, and games. There seem to be fashions in logic and reasoning. Arguments which are accepted as convincing at one time have no effect at another (sec. 227, n. 4). For centuries western Europe accepted the argument for the necessity of torture in the administration of justice as convincing. At different periods the satisfaction in allegory as a valid method of interpretation has been manifested and the taste for allegory in the arts has appeared. Philosophy goes through a cycle of forms by fashion. Even mathematics and science do the same, both as to method and as to concepts. That is why "methodology" is eternal. Mediaeval "realism" ruled all thought for centuries, and its dominion is yet by no means broken. It prevails in political philosophy now. Nominalism is the philosophy of modern thought. Scholasticism held all the mental outfit of the learned.

Thomas Aquinas summed up all that man knows
 or needs to
 know. A modern man finds it hard to hold his own
 attention
 throughout a page of it, even for historical
 purposes. "Phlogis-
 ton" and "vortices" had their day and are
 forgotten. Eight-
 eenth-century deism and nineteenth-century
 rationalism interest
 nobody any more. Eighteenth-century economists
 argued in
 favor of stimulating population in order to make
 wages low, and
 thereby win in international competition. They
 never had a

¹ *Century Magazine*^ XLII, 89.